

Official Statistics Release

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Introduction

This official statistics release reports on children's centre inspections that occurred between 1 April 2010 and 30 June 2013 under Section 3A of the Childcare Act 2006.

Data for inspections carried out between 1 April 2013 and 30 June 2013 are provisional and subject to change.

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Key findings

These findings report on inspections carried out in the first three months of the inspection framework that began on 1 April 2013. Due to inspector training and the implementation of a new inspection framework, there were no inspections carried out during April. The new framework distinguishes between groups of centres that work together, and those that operate on a standalone basis.

- Between 1 April 2013 and 30 June 2013, there have been 29 inspections of standalone children's centres and 10 inspections of group children's centres under the new framework. Of the 39 centres, 19 (49%) were judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness. This is a decrease of 15 percentage points from the proportion judged good or outstanding in the previous quarter (under the old framework). However, these percentages are based on very small numbers and may not be representative of the quality of all centres.
- During this reporting period, standalone centres performed better than group provider centres. Of the 29 standalone centres inspected, 18 centres or 62% were judged good or better and two were judged inadequate. Of the 10 groups of centres inspected, only one was judged good and none were outstanding. Two were judged inadequate.
- The 8% of children's centres judged outstanding in this quarter for overall effectiveness is a decrease of three percentage points from the proportion judged outstanding in the previous quarter.
- Inspection outcomes were broadly similar across all the judgements this quarter. Centres performed slightly better on 'Access to services by young children and their families' than on other judgements. The proportion of centres that were inadequate was lower for quality of practice and services than the other judgements (5% compared to 10% for the other judgements)
- Between 1 April 2010 and 30 June 2013, Ofsted has inspected 1,817 children's centres. Of these, 69% were judged good or better, and 1% inadequate. The results of the 39 inspections this quarter should not be treated as reflective of the wider picture across the country.
- There is some variation between the regions. In London, of the 263 centres inspected since 1 April 2010, 78% are good or better compared to the South West where 169 centres have been inspected and 57% are good or better.

Impact of revisions on key points of previous release

- In parallel to the release of provisional data for 1 April to 30 June 2013, final data covering the period 1 January 2013 to 31 March 2013 have also been released. This covers the last quarter of the old framework. These can be found on the Ofsted website:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/official-statistics-childrens-centres-inspections-and-outcomes>

- The final data for January to March includes one additional inspection outcome because the centre was inspected in March but the report was published in May.
- The inclusion of this additional children's centre has resulted in the quarterly figure increasing by one from 135 to 136. However as it is a re-inspection, the state of nation figure, that represents the most recent inspection, remains the same at 1,793. The centre was graded good originally but was graded inadequate at its re-inspection in March.

Methodology

1. The data in this release are from inspections carried out between 1 April 2010 and 30 June 2013.
2. Statistics relating to inspections undertaken in the most recent quarter are provisional and include inspections in the period where the inspection report was published within one month of the end of the quarter. If exceptionally, an inspection report is published later than one month after the end of the quarter in which the inspection took place, it will be included in the final release of the statistics.
3. The state of the nation figures show the most recent inspections outcomes for centres open at the end of the reporting period. Under the new framework, some former standalone centres are now inspected as part of a group centre. Where centres in these groups have been inspected previously, these grades are removed from the state of nation figures once the new group has been inspected. This affects three centres in the provisional release. Data on which centres are working in groups are based on data received from the Department for Education (DfE), based on data submitted to the DfE by local authorities through the Sure Start On database.
4. Revisions are published in line with Ofsted's revisions policy for official statistics which can be found on the Ofsted website:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/statistical-notice-ofsted-revisions-policy-for-official-statistics>

5. The first inspection framework for children's centres was published in April 2010 and refreshed in September 2011. A new children's centre framework was introduced on 1 April 2013. The main changes to the new framework are a reduction in the number of key judgements and a more flexible framework that allows joint inspection of groups of centres that share leadership and management and integrated services, and simultaneous inspections of those that work collaboratively. Information and guidance on the new framework is published on our website.

Children's centre framework:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/framework-for-childrens-centre-inspection-april-2013>

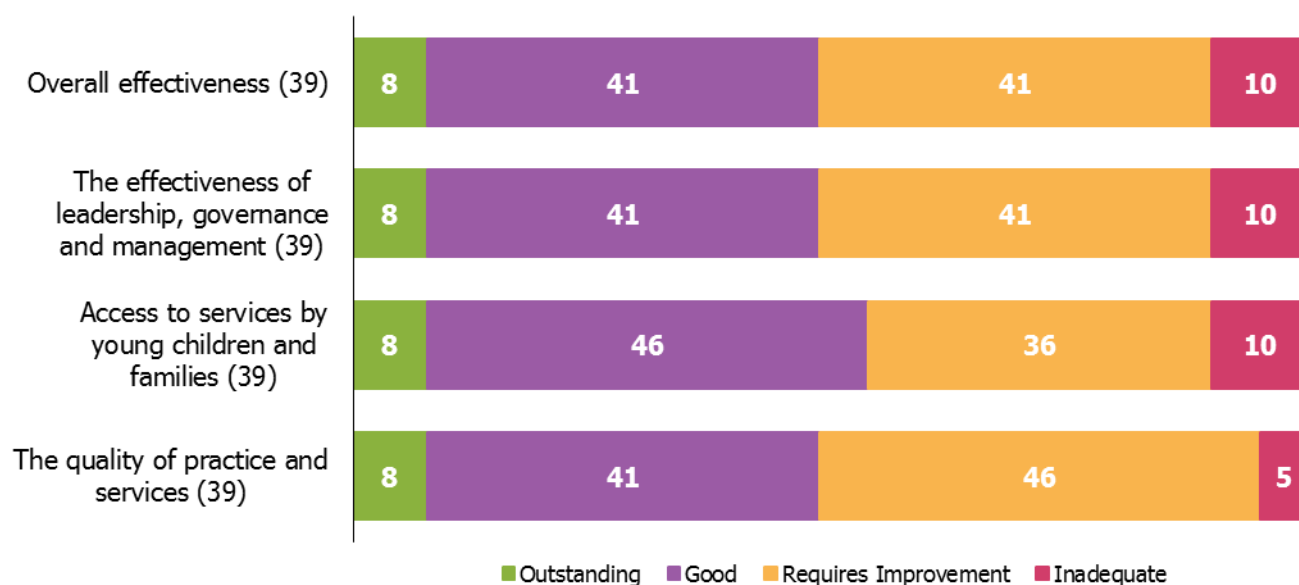
Children's centre handbook:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/childrens-centre-inspection-handbook-for-inspections-april-2013>

Additional information

All the tables and charts shown in this release, along with additional analysis by month and at regional and local authority level, are available in Excel and csv format on the Ofsted website in the same location as this document.

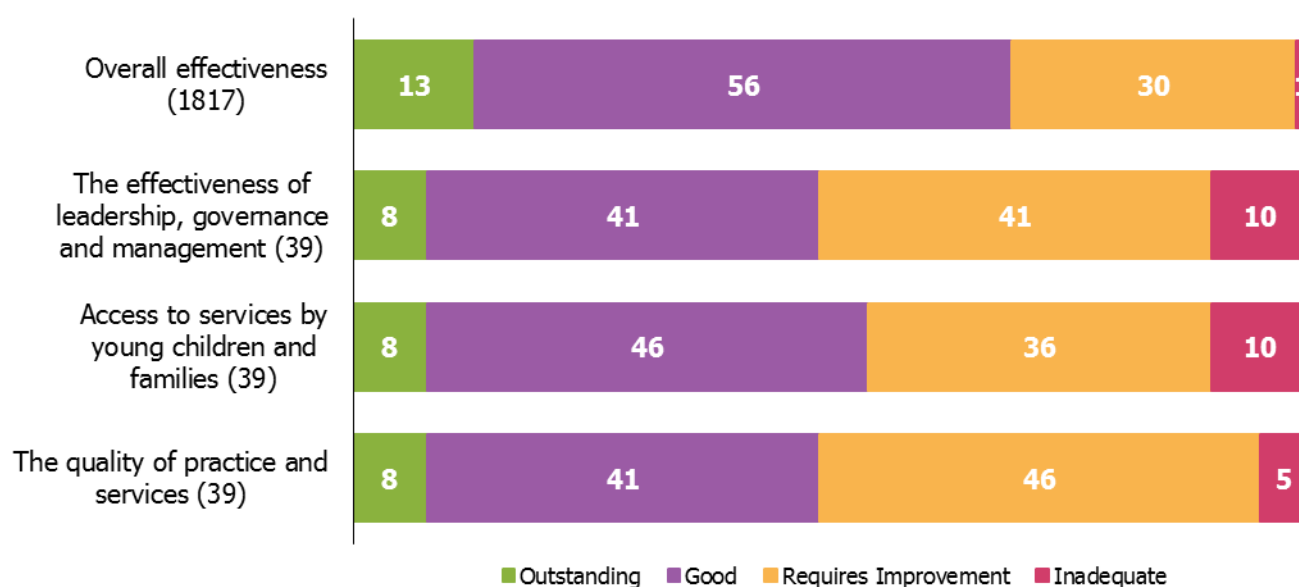
Chart 1: Inspection judgements for children's centres inspected between 1 April 2013 and 30 June 2013 (provisional)¹



Source: Ofsted Inspections

1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100.

Chart 2: Most recent inspection of children's centres inspected between 1 April 2010 and 30 June 2013 (provisional)^{1 2}



Source: Ofsted Inspections

1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100.

2. Data for overall effectiveness captures inspections from 1 April 2010 to 30 June 2013. The three additional judgements were recorded at inspection since April 2013.

Table 1: Overall effectiveness outcome of children's centres inspected between 1 April 2013 and 30 June 2013 ¹²

	Total number inspected	Number of centres				Percentage of centres			
		Outstanding	Good	Requires improvement	Inadequate	Outstanding	Good	Requires improvement	Inadequate
All inspections	39	3	16	16	4	8	41	41	10
Single centre provider	29	3	15	9	2	10	52	31	7
Group provider	10	0	1	7	2	0	10	70	20

Source: Ofsted Inspections

1. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages should be treated with caution. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100.

2. 'Single centre provider' includes centres inspected as a stand-alone event or as part of a simultaneous inspection.

Table 2: Inspection outcomes of children's centres inspected between 1 April 2013 and 30 June 2013 (provisional)^{1 2}

	Total number inspected	Number of centres				Percentage of centres			
		Outstanding	Good	Requires improvement	Inadequate	Outstanding	Good	Requires improvement	Inadequate
Overall effectiveness	39	3	16	16	4	8	41	41	10
The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management	39	3	16	16	4	8	41	41	10
Access to services by young children and their families	39	3	18	14	4	8	46	36	10
The quality of practice and services	39	3	16	18	2	8	41	46	5

Source: Ofsted Inspections

1. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages should be treated with caution. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100.

Table 3: Most recent inspection of children's centres inspected between 1 April 2010 and 30 June 2013 (provisional)^{1 2 3}

	Total number inspected	Number of centres				Percentage of centres			
		Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory/ Requires improvement	Inadequate	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory/ Requires improvement	Inadequate
Overall effectiveness	1817	231	1022	539	25	13	56	30	1
The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management	39	3	16	16	4	8	41	41	10
Access to services by young children and their families	39	3	18	14	4	8	46	36	10
The quality of practice and services	39	3	16	18	2	8	41	46	5

Source: Ofsted Inspections

1. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages should be treated with caution. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100.

2. The overall effectiveness numbers include the judgement 'How effective is the children's centre in meeting the needs and improving outcomes for families?' from the previous framework and 'The overall effectiveness of the children's centre' from the current framework.

3. Includes children's centres open as at 1 August 2013.

Glossary

Children's centres

Children's centres are expected to provide, or make arrangements for parents-to-be and families with young children, including wider family members such as grandparents, to access early childhood services. They are a local port of call when a mother, father or carer needs help or advice; whether that is in relation to their role as parent/carers, their child's well-being or learning and development, to find out about neighbourhood activities for parents or activities for children including play groups or nurseries. In this context, early childhood services are:

- childcare for young children
- social services functions of the local authority relating to young children, parents and prospective parents
- health services relating to young children, parents and prospective parents
- employment support from Jobcentre Plus for parents or prospective parents
- the local authority's information, advice and assistance service relating to childcare and other services and facilities relevant to young children and their families.

New Framework – 1 April 2013

Under this framework:

- an inspection will either be of a single centre or of a children's centre group that offers integrated services and shares leadership and management
- wherever possible and appropriate, inspections will take place simultaneously across a locality where local authorities or partner organisations deliver integrated services collaboratively
- a centre that is not yet 'good', but that is not judged 'inadequate', is a centre that 'requires improvement'
- centres that are judged as 'requires improvement' will be subject to monitoring and support and will normally be inspected within a maximum period of two years and earlier if required – the timing of inspection will reflect the quality of the action plan, the individual circumstances of the local authority and the centre and will be informed by what inspectors find during their monitoring activities
- if a centre is judged as 'requires improvement' at two consecutive inspections and is still not 'good' at a third inspection, it is likely to be deemed 'inadequate'
- a centre judged as inadequate will be re-inspected within 12 months of the previous inspection – the quality of the action plan produced by the local authority in response to the inspection and its implementation will be an important feature of the re-inspection.

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